

1 **RESOLUTION BY THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN**
2 **SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA ACCEPTING EXPANSION OF FEDERAL**
3 **MEDICAID SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR HEALTHCARE TO CITIZENS AND FOR**
4 **ADDITIONAL LONG-TERM SUPPORT OF GRADY HOSPITAL AND ALL OTHER**
5 **FULTON COUNTY HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER**
6 **PURPOSES.**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County and the Board of Commissioners as the constitutional
9 governing body of this government have a lawful and moral responsibility to provide for
10 the health and safety of its citizens who live and work in Fulton County; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, upon the closures of two hospitals in Fulton County, Fulton County
13 will be left with only one level-one trauma center, to wit, Grady Memorial Hospital
14 (“Grady”) in Downtown Atlanta and will put undue pressure on Grady in its service delivery
15 and its budget; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, recent economic developments tethered to the Coronavirus pandemic
18 and other measures and policies taken by governments, including reduced revenue that
19 Fulton County may collect in its next fiscal year due to a rollback in its tax millage rate;
20 and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County recognizes the urgency
23 of need for health and medical services, especially for those who cannot afford and those
24 who do not have access to affordable and quality healthcare, both preventive, urgent and
25 emergency services; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners is aware of a one-time infusion of ARPA
28 dollars offered by the governor of Georgia recently, and that Board of Commissioners
29 understands that a “long-term” solution is needed to keep Grady and all of Fulton County’s
30 health and medical services to citizens afloat in the near and distant future; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Georgia is one of up to 12 states that have not expanded Medicaid
33 under the Affordable Care Act, which would increase access to federal health insurance
34 coverage for low-income residents, in exchange for a 10 percent state match of the
35 federal spend; and
36

37 **WHEREAS**, 500,000 Georgians, including many in the state’s largest county—
38 Fulton—would get coverage through a standard Medicaid expansion under the federal
39 Affordable Care Act (ACA), that has been adopted by as many as 38 states, which would
40 immediately help reduce the number of patients that must use Grady because they have
41 no health insurance to be admitted or use private hospitals in Fulton County; and
42

43 **WHEREAS**, Georgia is one of 12 states still refusing the Federal Government’s
44 offer to extend coverage to people living up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level or nearly
45 \$19,000 in annual income for one person; and
46

47 **WHEREAS**, service areas and persons who would benefit from Georgia
48 accepting the expansion of the Medicaid program include **behavioral health**, including
49 helping those who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse; **opioid abuse and**

1 **mental health; uninsured women**—Georgia ranks among the bottom five states for
2 women’s health insurance coverage; and **uninsured veterans & military spouses**.
3

4 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Fulton County and the Board of
5 Commissioners reinforces its long-standing commitment to the health and safety of the
6 citizens of Fulton County, especially those who depend on and need access to quality
7 and affordable healthcare services and urges swift action by the State of Georgia—the
8 Governor Brian Kemp and as necessary, the General Assembly—to seek and accept an
9 expansion of the federal Medicaid Program in the State of Georgia.
10

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County
12 directs the County Attorney to research, and provide the Board of Commissioners within
13 30 days, recommendations on, any and all legal avenues to support this resolution in
14 advocacy for the expansion of the Medicaid Program in Georgia.
15

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County
17 directs the county manager and his staff, in consultation with the Board of Health and the
18 County’s health services, financial, and external affairs officers under the county
19 manager’s supervision, to research, and provide the Board of Commissioners within 30
20 days, detailed recommendations on methods to educate the public on this issue as it
21 pertains to Fulton County and Grady, and recommendations on ways to advance the
22 cause of educating the public on the benefits of Medicaid Expansion to Fulton County.
23

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon adoption of this Resolution, that the Clerk
25 to the Commission is directed to send copies of this Resolution to the members of the
26 Georgia General Assembly Fulton County Delegation; the Governor; Lieutenant
27 Governor; Secretary of State; and the Georgia Congressional Delegation and to the
28 President and Vice President of the United States, forthwith.
29

30 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict
31 with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.
32

33 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
34 Georgia, this 21st day of September, 2022.
35

36
37 FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF
38 COMMISSIONERS
39

40
41 **SPONSORED BY:**
42

43
44
45 _____
46 Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner
47 District 6
48
49

CO-SPONSORED BY:

District _____, Commissioner

District _____, Commissioner

District _____, Commissioner

District _____, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney